

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

The Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation will hold a public hearing on Thursday, August 18, 2016, at 1:00 p.m., in Room 1, Level 2, 30 West Spring Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215, to consider the following:

Amendment of the following rules for the purposes shown below:

- 4123-6-02.7 Provider access to the HPP - provider decertification procedures.**
- 4123-6-21.2 Pharmacy and therapeutics committee.**
- 4123-6-22 Stakeholders' health care quality assurance advisory committee.**

Enact the following rule:

**4123-6-21.7 Utilization of opioids in the subacute or chronic phases of pain treatment for a work-related injury or occupational disease.**

BWC is proposing to adopt new opioid prescribing rule OAC 4123-6-21.7, effective October 1, 2016 for claims with a date of injury on or after September 1, 2016 and for all claims on or after January 1, 2017, and to revise rules OAC 4123-6-02.7, 4123-6-21.2, and 4123-6-22 to:

- Encourage the incorporation of best current clinical practices in the utilization of opioids in the treatment of injured workers;
- Establish provisions and criteria for the treatment of opioid dependence that arose secondary to treatment with opioid medications covered by BWC;
- Provide and strengthen BWC peer review processes for opioid prescribing that can be implemented to address serious non-compliance with these best practices; and
- Clarify that BWC provider decertification pursuant to peer review shall be conducted in accordance with Chapter 119 hearing procedures, but is exempt from BWC progressive compliance procedures.

Finally, the Bureau is amending the following rule for the purposes shown below:

**4123-6-02.22 Provider access to the HPP – ambulatory surgical center arthroplasty center requirements.**

The bureau filed this rule as a new rule on April 20, 2016, and it became effective May 1, 2016. During the rule promulgation process the Bureau introduced changes and these changes were approved by the BWC Board and by the Common Sense Initiative Office. However, during final filing the rule with JCARR, one word was not updated in paragraph (A)(3)(b) as it was approved for filing. Now, the Bureau is filing this rule as approved by the BWC Board.

The full and complete text of the proposed rules is available at the Register of Ohio (<http://www.registerofohio.state.oh.us>) and is on file in the office of the Secretary of State (180 East Broad Street, 15th Floor, Columbus, Ohio), the Legislative Service Commission (77 South High Street, 9th Floor, Columbus, Ohio), the office of the Joint Committee on Agency Rule Review (77 South High Street, Concourse Level, Columbus, Ohio), the Bureau of Workers' Compensation, Legal Operations (30 West Spring Street, 26th Floor, Columbus, Ohio), the Bureau of Workers' Compensation (30 West Spring Street, Columbus, Ohio, 1st Floor, Hearing Rooms), and all service offices of the Bureau.

All interested parties will be given an opportunity to be heard. Any interested party unable to attend the public hearing may submit written comments to the undersigned prior to the public hearing at [enotification@bwc.state.oh.us](mailto:enotification@bwc.state.oh.us).

#### THE OHIO BUREAU OF WORKERS' COMPENSATION

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